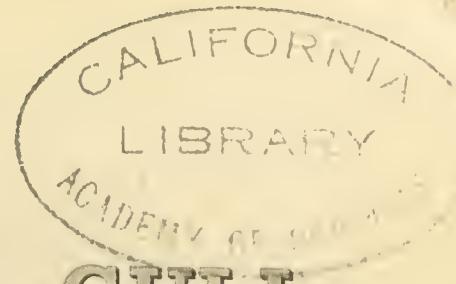


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APRIL MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association, postponed from the 9th inst., will be held on Thursday, 16th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

* * *

Donald McLean, Assistant Park Naturalist, Yosemite National Park, will favor us with a lecture on "Life Histories of Some Birds of the Yosemite Region." Visitors will be made welcome.

* * *

APRIL FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, April 19th, to the University Campus, Berkeley. San Francisco members will take 8:40 a. m. Key Route boat, transfer to Berkeley train at the mole and ride to the end of the line at University and Shattuck Aves., where the party will form upon arrival of train at 9:20 a. m. East Bay members may reach this point by either College, Shattuck, Telegraph or Grove cars. Bring lunch and canteens.

This will be the first trip of the association to the campus at this time of year and should prove fruitful and interesting.

* * *

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARCH MEETING: The ninety-eighth regular meeting of the Association was held on March 12th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Mrs. Kibbe, Acting Secretary; fourteen members present.

Following the distribution of tickets for the illustrated lecture by Mr. William L. Finley, the feature of the evening was presented by Mr. Carl R. Smith on the subject of "The Birds of the Tule River Canyon," to the enjoyment of all present.

* * *

Since the announcement in the January GULL, the following members have been elected by the Board of Directors: Miss Catherine S. Bastin, Miss Ethel Crum, and Miss Martha Crum, of Berkeley; Miss Ethel Levy and Mr. B. C. Bremer, of San Francisco; Miss Linda Jockers, of San Rafael; Miss Marie Leech, of Alameda, and Mr. Paul Bastin, of Oakland.

BIRDS OF THE TULE RIVER CANYON

On the 23d. day of April, I had the pleasure of visiting the canyon of the south fork of the Tule river, which rises in the southeastern part of Tulare county and formerly flowed into Tulare lake, but of late years its waters have been utilized for irrigation and I believe it no longer reaches the lake.

Following the stream up from Porterville, a few miles' travel brings one into the Sierra with no preliminaries of foothills. The climb begins abruptly on entering the canyon, which is rather open on one side and sparsely wooded with buckeye and valley oak, but clear of small growth with the exception of small quantities of poison oak and the largest gooseberries I have ever seen, some being well over six feet high. The narrow river bottom is heavily wooded with Fremont cottonwoods and some alders. The north bank of the river, for several miles, rises almost sheer for seven hundred feet, and is nearly barren. *

Near the upper reaches of the canyon, in the Tule River Reservation, is a government school for the Indians. Having lived among the Sioux in the territory of the Dakotas, I have none of the sentimentally sympathetic ideas regarding Indians that are entertained by some people, but I do believe in a square deal, and when one remarks the beautiful, rugged, granite formation of this canyon which our government gave to this tribe in exchange for the fertile land where Porterville now stands, one cannot but wonder at the generosity of the white man, in bestowing upon them this scenic canyon where their lives might be mercifully made shorter by starvation.

The reservation is policed and no hunting is allowed. Hundreds of quail have appreciated the refuge and these years of protection have made them something like pets.

Mourning doves were present in goodly numbers, together with a flock of about three hundred band-tailed pigeons. This pigeon once ranged this state in quantities, especially in the Sierran foothills up to 6,000 feet, but its size and flocking habits well nigh caused its extermination. I spent about three hours under an oak, where the pigeons were constantly coming and going. When any of them left the tree, the loud clapping noise of their wing-beats would echo and re-echo from the canyon walls and when several took flight at once, it would seem as if a multitude were winging about you. While feeding, they were constantly cooing in low tones and moving about the trees, sometimes tearing off branches up to 18 in. in length, which were then dropped to the ground. They ate not only the leaves of the oak, but bits of branch so long that they experienced difficulty in swallowing them. During eight hours of observation, not a single bird was seen going to the river to drink.

My attention was called to a bird which, against the light, resembled a small crow. Its flight was slow and it would generally alight in the tops of tall oaks and then drop to the ground to feed. Occasionally, one would land on the trunk of a tree or a fence post and explore for worms. Of these Lewis woodpeckers I have several records in groups of from two to six in number, but this flock contained eighty birds. With their gray collars and throats, crimson faces and rosy gray underparts, and with the plumage of their underparts bristling like a porcupine's back, they are perhaps the most gaudy and striking in appearance, of any of their kind. They make but little noise while feeding or playing and I surmise, often pass unnoticed on their breeding grounds, which are in Modoc, Siskiyou and Trinity counties.

Western kingbirds, ashy-throated flycatchers, Say and black phoebe were competing for the same insects. Although the presence of these four flycatchers on the same ground may not be uncommon, this is the only place where I have witnessed it.

The highly colored Bullock oriole was present in numbers unusual for a country so open and from their actions I judged they would nest in the vicinity. This was the only real opportunity I have ever enjoyed, of watching a number of cedar waxwings. They are beautiful, quiet-mannered birds and I wondered why they were at this place at the time. I have many records from January 1 to May 16, mostly in May, and all of them along the coast. Is it possible that they cross the Sierra or was this only a side trip to feed on the gooseberries? The quantity of this fruit which one bird could consume was astonishing.

Phainopeplas, although very striking in appearance, are not especially interesting after one has become accustomed to their presence. The long-tailed chat is not a quantity bird, but a quality bird, to whose name the adjective "peppy" might appropriately be added. After some hours of observation, I reduced my first estimate of one hundred chats to three, and credited each of these with a vocabulary beyond my poor powers of description.

That wonderful songster, the rock wren, spent hours endeavoring to sing me away from his nest, which I never found for, whichever way you turned, there was always a wren singing on a near-by rock, and you might climb the peaks to above timber line and still find a rock wren trying to sing you away from his nest.

CARL R. SMITH.

* * *

THE MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE LAW

The Migratory Bird Refuge Bill has been considered by the last two Congresses, and while it was passed by the Senate in the 67th Congress, and by the House in the 68th Congress, it has not yet been enacted into law.

The need for this legislation is more urgent now than when the bill was first introduced. There is a certainty that this need will grow more acute as reclamation and drainage of swamp areas continues, and the benefits of the Migratory Bird Treaty will be lost unless a decisive step is taken to insure wild waterfowl adequate and permanent breeding and winter feeding areas.

The American Game Protective Association will continue to sponsor this measure, which will be introduced in the first session of the next Congress, and will be pressed to final passage at the earliest possible date. The bill will be introduced in practically the same form as it passed the House in the last session.

Friends of the bill in Congress, among all conservation organizations and individual sportsmen who have given such loyal and effective support to the measure in the past are urged to continue their aid until success, which seems certain, shall reward their efforts.

* * *

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

It affords us pleasure to extend a cordial welcome to a new bird publication, *The Kentucky Warbler*, quarterly bulletin of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, of which Gordon Wilson, of Bowling Green, is Secretary and Treasurer. In the first number, Prof. L. Y. Lancaster, of that city, recounts an interesting experience while banding a downy woodpecker in January last. The bird complained loudly in the hearing of a dozen or more English sparrows, who responded at once and threatened the bander with their beaks. The 'role of protector of woodpeckers is certainly an odd one for *passer domesticus*.

THE GULL

BIRD BOX CONTEST IN NAPA

On March 15th, a contest in bird box construction was concluded in Napa, under the auspices of the First National Bank, at the instance of President E. L. Bickford, a member of our association. Some fifty boxes were entered in competition for the sixteen prizes offered by the bank, exhibiting a wide variety of design and finish. The boxes were judged by Messrs. G. W. Danforth and James Gillies, of Napa, and A. S. Kibbe, of Berkeley, on the following bases: First, adaptability to bird nesting; Second, provisions for inspection and cleaning; Third, resemblance to natural objects; Fourth, workmanship and neatness of construction; Fifth, applicability of dimensions to the needs of the particular birds for which boxes were designed.

A large proportion of the honors went to members of Boy Scout troops, the first prize being taken by William Corum, an enthusiastic member of the organization.

* * *

MARCH FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, the 15th, to Point Bonita Light and Rodeo Lagoon. The day was perfect and the panorama of the Golden Gate as fascinating as ever. The party was large and reached the beach in sections, some stopping en route for an early lunch. Lunch was eaten by the main section, as usual, on the beach at the southerly end of Rodeo Lagoon, and thereafter the walk was resumed for a visit to the vantage point at the base of the lighthouse. After leaving Sausalito, it was learned that a portion of the roof of the tunnel had caved-in, so that it was impossible to return along the short road. Taxis were secured for those desiring to ride back over the old road past Battery Spencer, while others tramped to Sausalito by trail through the Jolly ranch and over the ridge to the ferry.

The features of the day were furnished by a Holboell grebe and some pigeon guillemots at Point Bonita; an unidentified pair of ducks on the lagoon and the northern violet green swallows observed during the morning. At Fort Baker, we were greeted by the "okalee" call of a bicolored redwing. Another notable event was the presence of Baird cormorants at the point.

Birds encountered were: Western and Holboell grebes, pigeon guillemots, western, California and glaucous-winged gulls; Brandt and Baird cormorants, (?) duck, white-winged and surf scoter; California quail, red-tailed and sparrow hawks, kingfisher and (?) hummer; black phoebe, horned lark, California jay, crow and bicolored redwing; meadowlark, Brewer blackbird, linnet, green-backed goldfinch and Nuttall sparrow; junco, song sparrow, San Francisco and California towhees, and northern violet green swallow; Audubon warbler, Vigors wren, titmouse, bush and wren-tits; robin and western bluebird. Thirty-eight species.

Members in attendance were: Mesdames Kelly, Kibbe and Mexia; Mesdemoiselles Ayer, Sylvia Bastin, Olive Burroughs, Chapin, Cohen, Harcourt, Paroni, Pettitt, Shroder and Stevens; Messrs. Bourne, Bremer, Grueningen, Kibbe, Myer, Ananda and Eric Jacobs. As guests: Dr. and Mrs. Pomeroy, Phyllita and Ruth Pomeroy; Mesdemoiselles Ayer, Ethel Crum, Hess, and Levy; Messrs. Paul and Howard Bastin, Dr. Goodman, Alan Owens and Edmund Wagner. Twenty members and thirteen guests.

A. S. KIBBE.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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